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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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## Two depot Marines fly first-class to Super Bowl, box seats

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
Chevron staff

Marines all over the world watched as the New England Patriots defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Super Bowl XXXIX at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla. According to reports, even in Iraq, the Marines on post that couldn't watch, would listen to the updates sent through the radio waves.

Two Medical Holding Platoon Marines here who recently were injured in Iraq were given an even greater insight to the games' happenings when they each received an all-expenses paid trip to the event, courtesy of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., and Western Scientific.

Lance Cpls. Christopher M. H. Laha and Jesse Luong were flown first class to



Laha



Luong

a five-star resort for the weekend. They ate cuisine par to crab legs and steak the entire four days, even during the multiple pregame and postgame parties they attended on game day, according to Laha.

"The game was good," said Laha, "but it was cold. I stayed in the sky box the entire time."

According to recent media reports, they were not the only Marines

to go to the game.

The National Football League's Cleveland Browns donated 50 tickets for Marines along the east coast, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Although not all Marines were catered to as Laha and Luong, Sunday was a day of football, and if some Marines had it their way, it would have been an international, or at least national, holiday.

## Belts no cinch



Marines in region becoming martial arts instructors through course at depot

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS  
Chevron staff

Martial arts emphasize the thriving warrior ethos that makes today's Marines, but to teach its fighting skills to other leathernecks, the Corps requires a host of instructors.

Several times a year at the depot, Marines from the region's installations undergo a 15-training-day Martial Arts Instructor Course.

"We are teaching the foundations of martial arts and close combat," said Staff Sgt. Michael P. Suskin, one of the course's instructors. "We also build character, and ultimately, the combat leaders of the Corps' future."

The course – conducted mostly at the martial arts facility in Building 571 – requires that participants have a

SEE Belts, pg. 6



Sgt. Robert N. La Forga, Marine Air Group 46, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., practices a counter move on Sgt. Joshua D. Hanson, Marine Wing Support Squadron, MCAS Miramar. Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

## Bay View re-opening set for late April

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
Chevron staff

Two San Diego construction companies were recently awarded a \$4.2 million contract to remodel the Bay View Restaurant here.

Halbert Construction, Inc. was one of three companies to bid on the year and a half project, scheduled for completion in late April, according to Frank J. Guasti, project manager, Marine Corps Community Services here.

They also hired South Bay EDC, Inc., an electrical company, to take care of all exterior lighting such as street lamps and a portion of the interior lighting.

According to Guasti, South Bay handles 65 percent of the extensive site lighting and Halbert takes care of the rest.

The project brings anywhere from 60-100 workers at any given time, either directly or indirectly helping move the project forward, according to Guasti.

One of the restaurant's ongoing cli-



An artist's rendition of what the Bay View Restaurant will look like upon completion of the \$4.2 million in renovations in April. Official Marine Corps Illustration



The entrance to the Bay View Restaurant will feature a porte-cochere at the main entrance. Construction is scheduled for completion in April. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

entele is the family of new Marines graduating almost every Friday. In the meantime, the families have been redi-

rected to the recreation center at Building 590. The Bay View is located adjacent to the boathouse at the northwest corner of the depot.

The renovations include a remodeled kitchen with ventilation system, adding an access walkway system, remodeled restrooms to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, revisions to the pavement and landscape in the parking area, adding a new porte-cochere at the entrance, abatement of lead and asbestos, adding air conditioning to the ballroom and meeting room, and comprehensive landscaping of the exterior, according to Jeff Cohn, safety and quality control manager for Halbert.



### LIFE OR DEATH

Marine needing liver transplant saved in nick of time

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### RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Company M recruit steps out of rehab shadows after pneumonia

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### BIG BLUE IS BACK

3rd Bn. returns with reinforcements after last week's forfeit

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**FEBRUARY**  
National  
African-  
American  
History  
Month

LOCKER ROOM HOSTS SUPER BOWL PARTY

Recruiters School students Sgt. John Pick, Staff Sgts. John Studley and Ted Deller watch Super Bowl XXXIX at the Locker Room here Sunday. They didn't care who won as long as they won the TV sets given away as door prizes. Each person put their name in a blank box on the drawing board. The organizers then labeled scores to the boxes after kickoff, giving away prizes at the end of each quarter to those whose name corresponded with the points scored. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron



DoD campaign at theater teaches all things money

Workshops, lectures help people learn to get handle on financial future

BY CPL. DERRICK A. SMALL  
Chevron staff

As the Department of Defense continues to expand and its members become more active in the economy, the need for healthy monetary planning and tutoring on how the actual economy and market works grows too. To help facilitate this, the DoD and the Office of Personnel Management organized a Financial Education Fair Feb. 8 at McDougall Hall here. Approximately 31 groups conducted workshops and gave lectures educating people on topics such as health care, identity theft, credit, home buying, saving, invest-

ing, debt, high interest rates and ways to counter scams. According to Michael McIsaac, Marine and Family Services' personal financial management specialist here, the main goal of the fair was to increase financial literacy through workshops and lectures. Because most consumers are uneducated about matters dealing with finance, they tend to be misled by savvy sales representatives or credit lenders, McIsaac said. "Some people get loans with a 29 percent interest rate and walk away feeling they got a fair deal because they don't really know what a good deal is," he said. "These workshops and lectures will place DoD members and their families in a better position to manage their money." In fact, financial education is of the utmost importance to service members for personal readiness, added retired Air Force Col. Marcus Beauregard, the DOD's Financial Readiness Campaign coordinator. "Being financially unstable makes service members less effective because of their personal life," he said.

At the fair, participants were

encouraged to save money for the future before it becomes too late. "If you save nothing today, you'll have nothing tomorrow," said Variny Yim Paladino, the director of the American Savings Education Council's Choose to Save program. "If you begin saving something today, you'll get a handle on your financial future." Paladino also encouraged DoD personnel to get involved in Thrift Savings Plans and retirement funds and to put money away because once people get older, they'll regret not saving anything, she said. Besides saving, the issues of scams, investigating companies and identity theft were strongly addressed because of the increase of Internet usage (i.e. online investing and banking, etc.), explained Lori J. Schock, a special counsel with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Investor Education and Assistance. "We intentionally put (test) sites up to show people that they need to be educated on how to research brokers," she said. "Often consumers would take interest in one of our test Web sites and begin to take steps toward investing, and a page pops up stating 'If you responded to an investment like this, you could get scammed.' This generally gets peoples' attention."

According to Jackie Sistrunk, a consumer service representative with the California Department of Corporations, financial planners, brokers and credit lenders find ways to drag DoD personnel into scams. "The best defense against these predatory scams is to educate yourself about the financial planning atmosphere," she said. "Consumers should check before they invest. Take aim, don't be a target." For more information on scams or unlicensed investors, go to www.sec.gov or www.copr.ca.gov.

Fair promotes education, employment

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER  
Chevron Staff

The depot hosted its semiannual free Career and Education Fair Feb. 2 at the field house for both service members and civilians. The event featured more than 80 different associations, schools and businesses, to help inform depot staff about educational and employment opportunities available. James Brooks, career resource specialist, and Sam Bagwell, education officer here, were the two major organizers for this event. Being a prior serviceman, Brooks understands what kind of hassles come with the discharge. "(We did this) to offer Marines who are transferring out a convenient way to find new employment," said Brooks. "It would save them the time and frustration of going out in town for interviews." Attendees gave on-the-spot interviews, and opportunities extended to a wide range of individuals, including family members. Businesses and schools also came from other areas, including the Riverside Police Department and the Las Vegas Police Department. Though the event concentrated on business and employment, educators from local colleges extended invitations to young Marines looking to pursue degrees. "A lot of Marines do not even think about getting out until they are close," said Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo. "The education aspect is good for the Marines staying in so they can do it after hours. They came here to offer school to our Marines instead of having them go look through the yellow pages." The next fair is scheduled for June 15. For more information, call either Brooks at (619) 524-1283 or Bagwell at (619) 524-6865.



Riverside County Sheriff's community service officer Corrie McNall talks to Capt. Daryl Moore, a series commander with Special Training Company, about some of the opportunities law enforcement jobs can provide. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Many ID theft, fraud cases could have been prevented

BY CY MARONGE  
Legal Assistance Office

In 2003, from January to December, there were more than half a million reported incidents of fraud and identity theft complaints, which was up from the previous year. The total sum of these incidents compiled \$400 million in reported losses for the victims. Consumer Sentinel is the organization that investigates these reports, and they are currently investigating nearly 500,000 identity thefts alone. Many of these incidents of identity theft could have been avoided, but many people do not take steps to protect themselves. Although there is no way to guarantee your identity will be absolutely safe, there are several steps you, as the consumer, can take to help protect your identity.

**1 Be on guard.** Never give out any of your personal information to unknown telephone callers or to e-mail solicitors. More than half of identity theft is accomplished via the Internet, specifically through Internet auctions. This information includes your social security number, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, etc. This is the only information someone needs to steal your identity. When you activate a credit card, you are required to provide your identifying information. If someone obtains your personal information,

they can activate credit cards in your name that you may never know about. Also, never give out personal identification numbers for your ATM card, credit card, or check card. Do not be fooled by someone asking for your PIN. Your own bank, for example, will never need your PIN number for verification.

**2 Study your records.** Keep track of and review your bank statements so you are aware of any charges. If a charge comes up that you do not recognize, immediately report the discrepancy or suspicious charge to your bank. This will expedite the process of clearing up the charge you do not recognize and help prevent it in the future. Your bank can also cancel the check or ATM card immediately so it is no longer linked to your account. Also, report lost or stolen check, credit, ATM cards or checks as soon as you notice they are gone.

The longer you delay reporting, the more miscellaneous purchases can be made in your name. By reporting quickly, your cards and checks can be immediately cancelled and new cards can be issued. Also, if you wait too long, it is much more difficult to contest purchases made in your name that you did not make.

**3 Handle records with caution.** Take time to organize records you are keeping, and destroy those you no longer need. Secure the records you intend to keep - which should include statements,

cancelled checks, receipts, etc. - where third parties, such as contractors and guests, do not have access. Use a lock-box or filing cabinet with a lock where third parties generally do not venture. Keep your social security card with this information, not in your wallet. This way, if your wallet is lost or stolen, your social security number is not in someone else's hands.

As for paperwork or a card you do not intend to keep, destroy it before you throw it out. This means cutting up credit cards with scissors, making sure to cut across numbers and names, and shredding documents that have personal information on them, such as credit card offers, financial statements, cancelled checks, etc. This will help ensure that someone does not obtain your personal information by foraging through your garbage.

You may want to buy a shredder, but this is not necessary. You can tear documents up by hand if you do so thoroughly.

**4 Beware of scams.** Take extreme care when making online purchases or purchases over the phone. For online purchases, make sure you can make a secure transaction before you make the purchase. To determine if the transaction will be secure, you can look at the address of the Web page from which you are making the purchase. In the address bar, the "http" will read "https" to indicate that the page is secure. A secure site is more

restricted and your personal information is more protected. Make sure to print the summary of your transaction before you close your browser.

When purchasing over the phone, start by getting the name of the person taking your information. Write down the total of your purchase, the date, the name of the company and the name of the person taking your information. Make sure to check your statements after you make the purchase to ensure everything went through the way it was supposed to. If you see any discrepancies, report them immediately.

**5 Check your credit.** Check your credit report from each of the credit bureaus regularly. This will help you catch any problems more quickly, which will allow you to resolve them faster. Remember, there are several credit bureaus. Just because your credit looks fine on one does not mean you are in the clear. It is possible for your credit to be fine on one or two and still have a problem that you need to address. Any discrepancies you do find, you should report to that credit bureau.

Again, nothing is fool proof; however, by taking the proper steps to protect yourself, you can eliminate almost all possibility of having your identity stolen. The suggestions here may involve a little extra attention to detail, but the headache they will save you in trying to fix your credit will be worthwhile.

Jury duty: Another opportunity to serve?

BY CPL. MICAH SNEAD

Not long ago I had the good fortune to get a few days off from work to answer the call from my hometown court for jury duty. Here's a few notes and observations I made while wondering if the Lady of Justice ever goes on blind dates ...

**The Chosen One** One day you may receive an inconspicuous piece of mail from your local clerk of court. If you're the type to ignore societal obligations and well-defended rights, the letter will probably make its way to the bottom of your trash bin. However, if you're a red-blooded, freedom-loving American, you'll jump at this unique chance to serve your nation and your community.

For every person who claims jury duty is a pain, there are five more who watch "Law and Order" or one of its spin-offs. Go figure.

**Did It Start Yet?** On your first day, you'll notice you didn't exactly win the lottery. A lot of people get summons every time a jury is assembled, so don't start signing autographs as soon as you

walk in the courthouse. Also be aware that not everyone around you is as happy about being in court as you are, especially the accused. I'm glad I wasn't blabbing away to a guy next to me in line when I got to the courthouse because I found out later he was accused of assault and battery with intent to kill. Not that I'm saying he's the violent type (he was cleared of all charges by a jury which included yours truly the next day) but it probably wasn't his best Monday morning on record.

**Can I Get Arrested For Wearing This?** This could be the one time in your life (except your wedding) when you will be hissed at for wearing something tacky. Attorneys and defendants will be wearing business suits, skirts/jackets or other "semi formal" attire. Jury members will generally wear "business casual" clothing. A letter with your summons should explain appropriate jury clothing for court.

**You Like Me, You Really Like Me!** After the excruciatingly long and boring roll call, where every citizen who has answered

the summons stands up and says how far they live from the courthouse, what they and their spouse does for a living and whether or not they believe in ghosts is complete, a lottery is used to select members of the actual trial jury. If your number gets called, both the defense and prosecution have the opportunity to question any interest you may have in the case. This process is called "voir dire" which means to speak the truth. Both sides try to weed out any jurors who might hurt their case.

Assuming you're not related to either a victim or accused (and you're not wearing an "I'm not racist, I hate all people" hat), you'll probably be seated in the jury.

**Who Are These People?** By now you've probably noticed that the courtroom is apparently full of totally useless people. In Walterboro, S.C. (a city of just over 2,000 people), it looked like there was an entire football team on the judge's side of the little swinging gate. If the ratio holds true, they must have to put bleachers in courtrooms in major U.S. cities.

The clerk of court does some

talking during the jury selection phase; after that, I assume she's playing solitaire the whole time. And there's an assistant clerk of court! There's a strange little desk connected to the judge's throne where - during my trial, at least - a man sat working furiously behind a computer without seemingly noticing the court room proceedings at any time. I was starting to think they just ran out of office space in the building and this guy got stuck with the courtroom cubicle.

The stenographer is apparently a free job they just give to the first person to apply for it these days. Forget about pen and paper or even the super small typewriters; today's stenographers need only one thing: a mouth. They speak into a mouthpiece which I assume records the dictation, although it makes one wonder why they can't just hook recorders onto all the court room microphones. The judge even has an assistant sitting behind his giant desk. For all I know, they just give the judge Swedish foot massages during the trial, or maybe even do a little eBay shopping on behalf of the honorable whoever.

**Can I Leave Now?** Believe it or not, the excitement will wane. Marines shouldn't have a problem with trials because we're used to the hurry up and wait philosophy, but the Law and Order generation is more accustomed to nice and tidy 60-minute trials. I'm here to report that isn't happening in the real world, folks. I found out first-hand that bringing the sports page into the courtroom isn't a good way to kill time.

**On Further Review ...** All my life I've heard people talk poorly about jury duty, and I was met with surprise when I expressed my eagerness to serve, but the experience was well worth the discomfort, even if the pay wasn't (\$37.50 for three days of work). During my time as Juror No. 7, I learned two things: You owe it to yourself and your community to fully cooperate with any jury summons, and I'd be happy to have myself on my jury.

Snead is a combat correspondent for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., newspaper *The Jet Stream*.



National Military Family Association director Lillie S. Cannon (right) and representative Nico Duncan hand Debbie Paxton and Bob Past a copy of their newsletter entitled "The Voice For Military Families" during the Financial Education Fair at McDougall Hall here Feb. 8. The NMFA is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting military families with various issues from education to relocation. Cpl. Derrick A. Small/Chevron

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Kuumba Fest 2005

Celebrate Black History Month with the San Diego Repertory Theatre's "Kuumba Fest 2005 - Black to Glory: Mind, Body and Soul" at downtown's Lyceum Theatre, Feb. 25-27.

San Diego's longest running African-American festival of arts, creativity and cultural heritage returns for its 13th year with an array of family events, entertainment, workshops, community forums and more.

The event begins Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. and continues through Sunday evening. Single tickets can be purchased the day of the event. For more information, call (619) 544-1000.

Heritage Day Festival and Parade

Nu-Way Operation B.H.I.L.L.D. presents the annual Heritage Day Parade Feb. 26, a family celebration honoring cultural diversity, community unity and more.

Southern California college and high school marching bands, dancing teams, celebrities, automobile clubs are among the highlights of the parade. The parade begins at 49th and Logan Avenue and ends at the Euclid Health Center, located at 286 Euclid Avenue.

Three stages of international music, ethnic food, art, educational and health resources, free children activities and more will be at the festival. Festivities will take place at the center.

This is a free event. For more information, call (619) 286-9989.

February is Museum Month

San Diego's arts and culture community and Robinsons-May stores will be celebrating Museum Month until Feb. 28, offering half-priced admissions to historical sites with a special Museum Month pass. The Museum Month pass is free at all San Diego County Robinsons-May stores.

This is the 16th Annual Museum Month and most of San Diego's museums and historic sites will be celebrating cultural awareness on a level witnessed by very few cities in the country.

The San Diego Museum Council is hosting this year's Museum Month. Each of the institutions listed on the Museum Month pass offers the half-priced admission.

San Diego Robinson-May stores are located at Fashion Valley, Mission Valley, El Camino Real in Carlsbad, Fletcher Parkway in El Cajon, North County Fair in Escondido, University Town Center and Plaza Bonita in National City.

This year, participating museums and historical sites include some of San Diego's most important institutions including: Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Cabrillo National Monument, Children's Discovery Museum of North County, Computer Museum of America, Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum, Heritage of the Americas Museum, Maritime Museum of San Diego, MCRD Command Museum, Mingei International Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

For more information, call Theresa Kosen at (619) 276-0101.



**MAIL CALL** Actor R. Lee Ermy records the 68th episode of the History Channel's Mail Call while Company L recruits run the obstacle course here, Feb. 3. During the episode, Ermy compared Marine Corps recruit training to Afghanistan's combat environment. Cpl. Derrick A. Small/Chevron

National Prayer Breakfast

Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. will be the guest speaker at the depot's observance of this year's National Prayer Breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Feb. 15, at Duncan Hall.

Meal tickets are \$1.90 at the door. Come early because organizers expect a long line. They want patrons seated with their meal by no later than 6:30 a.m.

All active duty personnel and civilian employees aboard MCRD are welcome to attend. Service members should be in the uniform of the day. For more information, call H&S Bn. chaplain, Cmdr. Randal B. Craft at (619) 524-1347.

Women Marines Association celebrating 62nd Anniversary

The San Diego chapter of the Women Marines Association will hold its 62nd anniversary of women Marines Feb. 19 at the Hilton Hotel in Mission Valley at 901 Camino del Rio South, San Diego. Active duty Marines and their guests are invited to attend. The cost per ticket is \$19, which includes a meal. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 15. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Busby at (619) 524-1980.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program

One-day workshops for the PREP program fiscal 2005 are available April 27, June 22 and Aug. 24 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Center, Building 111. PREP teaches couples how to communicate effectively and work as a team to preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship, as well as solve problems and manage disagreements. Active duty members and their spouses or fiancés, as well as civilian depot employees, are invited to attend. Priority will be given to active duty members and their spouses or fiancés.

Child care is available. Please sign up no later than one week before a workshop.

For more information, call the Family Team Building office at (619) 524-0916 or (888) 718-3027.

All services enlisted ball

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA is hosting its 17th Annual All Services Enlisted Ball at Paradise Point Resort and Spa May 7. For more information, call the event coordinator Cindy Farless at (619) 232-9084 or visit [www.asymcasd.org](http://www.asymcasd.org).

Bible study opportunities

The Headquarters and Service Battalion Bible study, Hearers and Doers, is open to all H&S personnel, both active duty and civilian, including Recruiters School personnel and students. The group meets from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays in the H&S Bn. Headquarters classroom, Building 15. The group is currently reading and discussing the book, "The Purpose Driven Life," by Rick Warren. Come as you are. Please call the battalion chaplain for further details including information about acquiring Warren's book.

Officers' Christian Fellowship is available to all depot officers Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. The group meets for about an hour in the Headquarters Company classroom in Building 6W. The meeting ends so that those involved in Friday morning Colors are able to make it to the ceremony on time. The group study is currently focused on the book, "Your Work Matters to God," by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks.

Interested officers can join the study at any point in time whether or not they are familiar with or have been reading the subject book. Please give Lt. Col. Scott McLennan, executive officer, H&S Bn., a call at (619) 524-1980 for further details including information about acquiring the book.

Mexico border area liberty policy violation update

The San Diego Police Department routinely conducts Operation Safe Crossing with the help of various local law enforcement agencies. Operation Safe Crossing is designed to deter underage drinking in Tijuana, Mexico.

All military personnel without their armed forces identification cards will be denied entry into Mexico.

San Diego police will arrest any people, regardless of age, coming back from Tijuana who are too intoxicated to take care of themselves. Commander Navy Region Southwest Border Shore Patrol will maintain a visual presence and assist SDDP upon request in handling or taking custody of any military personnel.

Mexico liberty policies

Marine Corps Regional Order 1050



**CG'S CUP '05**

This year's Commanding General's Cup is well underway, and if it's anything like last year's competition, it should be a close race to first place. Here are this year's remaining events:

- **Horseshoes Tournament, Feb. 22** (coaches meet Feb. 7)
- **Tennis Tournament, March 1** (coaches meet Feb. 23)
- **Walleyball Tournament, March 8** (coaches meet Feb. 28)
- **St. Patrick's Day Run, March 15**
- **Dodgeball Tournament, March 22** (coaches meet March 14)
- **Racquetball League, March 29** (coaches meet March 21)
- **Basketball Tournament, April 5** (coaches meet March 28)
- **Billiards League, May 17** (coaches meet May 9)
- **Softball League, May 24** (coaches meet May 16)
- **Freedom Run, June 30**
- **Flag Football League, July 5** (coaches meet June 27)
- **6-on-6 Outdoor Soccer, Aug. 16** (coaches meet Aug. 8)
- **Sand Volleyball, Sept. 27** (coaches meet Sept. 19)
- **Bowling League, Oct. 3** (coaches meet Sept. 26)
- **Powerlifting Tournament, Nov. 15** (coaches meet Nov. 7)
- **Turkey Trot, Nov. 22**
- **3-on-3 Basketball, Nov. 29** (coaches meet Nov. 21)
- **Field Meet, Dec. 9**

requires that all Marines E-3 and below have an out of bounds chit to go to Mexico. Regional order 1050 applies to all lance corporals and below assigned here.

For more information, senior enlisted personnel and officers may contact Mac Celso Rubalcaba via e-mail at [rubalcaba.celso@otc.cnrsw.navy.mil](mailto:rubalcaba.celso@otc.cnrsw.navy.mil) or (619) 428-2427/1318.

Submit possible Chevron briefs via e-mail to [edward.guevara@usmc.mil](mailto:edward.guevara@usmc.mil). The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards and regulations of the U.S. Government.

# Prayers answered

## Eleventh-hour liver donation saves OIF veteran from certain death

BY SGT. JENNIE HASKAMP  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"He needs a liver soon if this is going to be a happy ending," Dr. Donald Hillebrand said to television news crews Jan. 28. "He is slowly dying upstairs; we need a liver if we're going to get him through this."

Hillebrand, the medical director for liver transplants at Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, Calif., made that plea to the community two days after Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher LeBleu was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit, diagnosed with unexplained acute liver failure.

LeBleu, a 22-year-old Lake Charles, La., native, and member of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, returned from Iraq in September, married his hometown sweetheart in October, and fell sick in December.

Hospital staff members said preliminary tests indicated LeBleu's liver failure may have been caused by viral hepatitis, but more analysis will be needed before the exact cause is known.

LeBleu was jaundiced and swollen Jan. 27, but still answered questions with one-word answers. His condition deteriorated and doctors placed him on a ventilator shortly before Hillebrand appeared before cameras.

"We're looking at hours now – days at the most," said Hillebrand.

Someone out there grieving the loss of a loved one has the chance to save someone else's life, Hillebrand continued.

"Organ donation is the right thing to do – the Christian thing to do," he said, telling reporters he first registered as an organ donor at 16.

LeBleu's parents, friends and members of his command held vigil with his wife as precious hours and days passed without a donor.

Doctors said without the liver transplant, LeBleu's survival rate was as low as 15 percent.

"I know he can hear me, so I tell him I love him every time I visit him," said his wife, Melany, 21. "I keep telling him how strong he is and how good he is



**Capt. Brad Tippet, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, spends time at the bedside of Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu Jan. 27. Admitted with acute liver failure the day prior, LeBleu fell into a coma and was placed on life support before a donor liver was found. Tippet was LeBleu's company commander while the battalion was deployed to Iraq from February to September 2004. Tippet, like many other members of the unit, spent hours each day with LeBleu and his family awaiting word of a donor. Sgt. Jennie Haskamp/MCAGCC Twentynine Palms photos**

doing, and that everyone is praying for him."

The morning of Jan. 29, Melany asked for a priest to come and anoint her husband.

Cmdr. Bill Devine, chaplain, 1st Marine Division, came to the hospital at the request of LeBleu's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Matthew Lopez.

"I knew when Father Divine was made aware of the situation that he would be there right away," said Lopez. "That's just the kind of man he is; he has always been there when the battalion needed him."

Devine arrived in a few short hours. After spending time with the family, he spoke with the intensive-care unit staff, and a dozen of LeBleu's family and friends were allowed into his hospital room, each required to wear a sterile robe and rubber gloves.

Devine leaned over LeBleu's bed and spoke to him.

"Your family's here, and all your friends, and we're all gonna take some time to pray with you," said Devine, a Boston native. "You just listen to our prayers. We know that you can't pray, and you can't talk. That's OK. We'll do it for you."

With his hand on LeBleu's shoulder, Devine kept speaking to the young man he remembered from Mass in Iraq.

"Chris, just put yourself in God's hands," he said. "We know that God is going to come to you in a special way, and let you know that he's right here with you. Chris, you just continue to fight."

Devine read from the Bible: "Is there anyone sick among you? Then let him call to the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, and anoint him

in the name of the Lord."

Before Devine anointed LeBleu with the same oil he'd used in Iraq to anoint Marines and sailors, he gave everyone in the room a chance to pray for LeBleu.

"Lord, this man laying here is like a brother and a son to me," said Capt. Brad Tippet, LeBleu's former company commander. "I know he is so much more to you."

Crying, Tippet continued his fervent prayer: "Father, I pray that you heal this man. Mortal hands can't do this, Father. Lay your divine hands upon him."

After the emotional ceremony, many of the group sobbed openly as they left the ICU ward. Removing their sterile garments, they comforted each other in the hallway and waiting room.

Just hours later, a call came in that a possible donor had been located, and members of the Loma Linda staff left to assess the liver that might save LeBleu's young life.

The liver deemed acceptable, LeBleu was taken into surgery Jan. 30 at 6 a.m., and a whole new wait began.

The mood in the waiting room was more cheerful than in recent days. LeBleu's stepfather, who raised him from the age of 8, shared a story with friends in the room.

"Blake's not sure why we're all worried," said Eric Lamendola, referring to his 11-year-old son, still at home in Lake Charles. "He told his uncle, 'He's been through tougher things than this. Chris has been to war. He'll be all right.'"

As word of the donor spread, the crowd in the private waiting room grew to more than 30 family members, friends and well-wishers.

Just before 4 p.m. on Sunday, a team of surgeons came to speak to the family. The doctors, who'd operated on LeBleu for more than 10 hours, were greeted with a standing ovation as they entered the waiting room.

"There were no complications, and we're pleased with the procedure," said Dr. Okechukwu Ojogho, one of three surgeons who'd operated on LeBleu.

"We must all continue to pray for Christopher," cautioned Ojogho. "The next few days are very important, and he is still in very critical condition."

Ojogho told the family they could call him with any questions they had, saying none were too big, too small or too often.

After an exchange of hugs, the doctors left the group



(From left) Wife Melany LeBleu, stepfather Eric Lamendola, Dr. Donald Hillebrand, Capt. Brad Tippet and Dr. Okechukwu Ojogho attend a press conference Jan. 31, the day after Melany's husband, Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu received a total liver transplant at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif.



Sgt. Joshua D. Hanson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 473, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., holds a choke during ground fighting.

**Belts, from pg. 1**  
gray belt and a first-class physical fitness test score and be at least a corporal.  
“The first-class PFT is a must,” said Suskin. “The exercises here are very demanding physically. The first day of the course, we make all the students take a PFT. If they don’t get a first class, we have to drop them.”  
Throughout the course, students practice ground fighting, grappling and sparring. They run strength and endurance courses. And carrying a combat load and rifles, they run an obstacle course several times consecutively. Students also take on the secretive Cohesion Room, a combat-conditioning exercise that Suskin said “fosters teamwork and mental toughness.”  
Toward the end of the course, Hank Hayes, a premier knife-fighting instructor, came to the depot to train students with his “No-Lie Blades”

training. Marines wore white T-shirts as they went to town on each other with felt-edged training knives lined with red lipstick. The red on white registered every simulated cut – arms, heads and necks not exempt.  
“My training is designed to expose one’s strengths and weaknesses with edge weapons and edge-weapon defense,” said Hayes. “I love training Marines because they have a committed mind set and courage to take up any challenge. The Corps is the smallest force, yet they are the most feared. Our training just fortifies these warriors.”  
The students said they found the course very tough but well worth the effort.  
“What wasn’t hard about it?” said Sgt. Thomas A. Hartrick, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. “It’s a different type of training. It’s much tougher than everyday Ma-

rine Corps, both mentally and physically. Overcoming the challenge is what makes this course great. I would suggest this course to anyone who wants a real challenge.”  
At the graduation ceremony, instructors gave Hartrick the Gung Ho Award, which is designated for the student who shows the most motivation in the course.  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Rusinko, a course instructor, said the course instills mental, physical and character discipline. The mental discipline comes from training to make clear decisions when physically exhausted, but the character discipline comes from classroom time.  
The instructors teach Marines what being a warrior is all about, and come graduation – after each accepts his green belt with tan instructor tab wrapped around a diploma – the student becomes the teacher.



Staff Sgt. Rashad Johnson, drill instructor, Company D, holds a No Lie Blade. The blade is edged with felt and coated with lipstick to accurately show cut and stab wounds during training.



Hank Hayes, chief executive officer for the No Lie Blades training program, points out a potential knife wound on Cpl. William Pollard, Headquarters and Service Squadron, MCAS Miramar, Calif.



Gunnery Sgt. Terrell Tommons, Recruiters School, takes rest during No Lie Blades edge weapon training.



Sgt. Shawn Leek, drill instructor, Company A, dons his green martial arts belt with the tan instructor tab. *Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron photos*



Staff Sgt. Jose Romero, drill instructor, Co. H, tries to free himself from a choke hold by Staff Sgt. Walter N. Burtanog, martial arts instructor.



Staff Sgt. Rashad Johnson, drill instructor, Co. D, tries to hold his mount on Master Sgt. Daniel Price, band master, Marine Band San Diego.



Cpl. William Pollard, Headquarters and Service Squadron, MCAS Miramar, clutches his Martial Arts Instructors Course diploma. A green belt with a tan instructor tab is wrapped around the diploma.

# Co. M grad overcame month in sick bay

## RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.  
*Chevron staff*

When Ian was 8 years old, his cousin attended the U.S. Naval Academy. His cousin, now a captain in the Marine Corps, gave Ian posters, showing him how tough of a challenge it is to become a Marine. “From that time on, Ian wanted to be a Marine because the Marines are the toughest and the best,” said his mother Linda Parkinson. “We suggested college first and then (get a commission in the) Marines, but he chose the enlisted route because, as he put it, ‘it’s the hardest way,’ and he wanted to start at the bottom and work up from there.”

Pfc. Ian J. Parkinson, Platoon 3047, Company M, graduates from recruit training today, ending a four-month tour on the depot, a month longer than the regular training schedule.

Parkinson first came to the depot in late October, joining Platoon 3033, Co. I. After in-processing, recruits begin training with their assigned company. Parkinson’s first day of training was the start of what was to become an obstacle to graduation and a learning experience.

“On T-1 I thought I had a bad cold,” said the native Texan. “I waited to tell anyone because I didn’t want to get dropped. I wanted to get this over with as soon as possible.”

Two weeks later it got worse. “I was dropped (from 3033) for pneumonia,” Parkinson said. “It was two days before initial drill.” After his diagnosis, he was sent to Medical Rehabilitation Platoon 3.

“MRP3 is where they send everyone with pneumonia, bronchitis and other types of respiratory infections,” he said. “They checked our vitals every morning.”

According to Parkinson, they made sure everyone was doing OK daily and after seven days they would see a doctor to check on the progress of

healing from their illness.

Parkinson was really down when he had to go to MRP, according to his mother. The worry of being dropped from training was hard to handle.

“Just sitting around doing nothing got to me – knowing (the days) didn’t count toward me getting out of here,” said Parkinson of the three and a half weeks he spent in MRP. “It made me homesick, not being able to talk to friends and family.”

Although he could not talk to anyone outside training, he found ways to communicate to his friends, family and God.

Parkinson had a lot of free time to study. “I read my knowledge and Bible,” he said.

Two years ago, Parkinson said he found himself becoming a more devout Christian, which gave direction and purpose to his life. He went to church every Sunday. “I was really religious before recruit training,” said Parkinson. “Reading my Bible (here) made (my faith) stronger.”

He continued his churchgoing every Sunday here and his family continued to encourage him through his time in limbo.

“(Religion) helped the time go by,” he said, “along with letters from my girlfriend, parents and other friends.”

Cousin and friend Capt. Brad J. Butler was a driving force in Parkinson’s success here. He traveled from Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., to visit him at MRP.

“He talked with me and motivated me,” said the graduate of Plano West High School, Plano, Texas.

“I just went down there to see how he was doing,” said Butler, a Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 303 pilot. “I think just seeing a friendly face helped most.”

Eventually, Parkinson healed and was able to go back to the task he had set out on, this time with Co. M.

“I didn’t think this company would be as good as India,” he said. “But I have more friends here now than I ever did in India.”

When Parkinson came to 3047, a recruit who slept in a nearby bed helped him adjust to life in his new



Pfc. Ian J. Parkinson, Platoon 3047, Company M, marches with his platoon mates after descending the rappel tower Feb. 3. Parkinson left behind friends he made in Co. I after he fell ill, but he now considers himself lucky to have the new friends he made in 3047. Parkinson graduates today after recovering from pneumonia while in Medical Rehabilitation Platoon. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

platoon. Shortly after, that recruit, Pfc. G. Smitherman III, was appointed as the platoon’s guide.

Parkinson said he liked the Co. M atmosphere better. Because training was further along than when he was with Co. I, Parkinson said the senior drill instructor was more likely to motivate recruits with personal stories about the Corps, which recruits enjoy.

Parkinson’s family will be waiting for him in the bleachers on the edge of Shepherd Memorial Drill Field today, a place where many Marines make their first memories and stories in the Corps.

said Hillebrand.

Though his Marine received the donation he needed to survive, Lopez vowed to continue to make people aware of the plight for organ donations.

“I have always told my wife to donate whatever is needed when I die,” said Lopez, back at work in Twentynine Palms after spending several days at the hospital with LeBleu’s family. “I had no idea how great the volume of need is for organs. This is a problem that can be solved through education.”

Lopez emphasized that this is everyone’s concern, not just a family immediately in need of a donation.

“Lance Cpl. LeBleu is one of our Marines. We take care of our own – Marines also take care of those on our flanks,” he said. “Now we owe it to all those who helped save his life to do everything we can to help solve this problem. We can start with educating our own Marines and the Marine Corps family. The Marine Corps family runs deep. In my book, the transplant community was just added to our extended 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines family.”

Learn more about organ donation at <http://www.unos.org> or <http://www.llu.edu/llumc> or call 1-800-338-6112.

They have given us Chris back.”

Doctors said given time, LeBleu is expected to make a full recovery.

“He has some recovering to do, but all indications show he will return to a near normal quality of life; he’ll be the Chris his friends and family knew,”



Melany LeBleu, a 21-year-old Lake Charles, La., native, kisses her husband of just three months Lance Cpl. Chris LeBleu, Jan. 27. Suffering from acute liver failure, the Marine was admitted to Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif., Jan. 26. A rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in Twentynine Palms, Calif., LeBleu started showing signs of illness just a month earlier. Doctors gave him just weeks to live without a donor liver. Sgt. Jennie Haskamp/MCAGCC Twentynine Palms photos

said, looking at the doctors sitting next to her, “but I want to thank them.”

Given the chance to address the nation, Lamendola echoed his daughter-in-law’s thanks.

“We have a lot to be thankful for – for the condition Chris is in now,” he said. “We want to

**Liver, from pg. 5**

to celebrate the first victory in LeBleu’s battle for life.

Melany stood to address the room, a broad smile on her face.

“Thank you so much for all of your support,” she said. “Prayers do work.”

After a hug from her mother-in-law, she continued.

“It means so much that because of all of you and God, Chris will still be here with me,” she said, breaking into tears.

LeBleu’s battalion chaplain, Lt. Dave Slater, offered a prayer of thanks for the family that, in the midst of their grief, made the gift that saved another life. That sentiment was shared the next day, at the hospital’s press conference.

Though it was an anonymous donor, Melany LeBleu repeatedly offered thanks to the family that gave her husband a second chance at life.

“We don’t know who they are, and that’s fine,” she said to the crowd of reporters in the room. “I want to tell them that my deepest sympathies go out to them, that they had to lose a family member for my husband to live.”

Melany continued, thanking the doctors, the staff, the Marines and all of the well-wishers across the nation.

“I know it’s their job, and they know it’s their job,” she

# Portland recruiter on rural side is station’s best

BY SGT. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
*12th Marine Corps Recruiting District*

Staff Sgt. John McIntire seeks out new recruits for the Marine Corps in one of the largest and most rural areas Recruiting Station Portland, Ore., has to offer: Recruiting Substation Bend. Portland’s easternmost outpost encompasses an area of more than 30,000 square miles.

It is not unusual for McIntire to travel two to three hours between schools or four hours to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Portland. Despite these challenges, he has risen to the top of his peers. Mac, as his colleagues sometimes refer to him, was selected as RS Portland’s Recruiter of the Year, fiscal 2004. He has also become the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the same office where he cut his teeth as a rookie recruiter some two and a half years ago.

McIntire’s performance follows on the heels of a similarly outstanding performance during the previous year in which he was among the top three competitors in the running for Rookie Recruiter of the Year honors. He credits his consistent performance, not to harder work or longer hours than any other recruiter within the command, but to a straightforward approach with every applicant.

“I tell every kid who walks through the front door the same thing before we ever really get started,” said McIntire. “I tell them, ‘You already knew when you came



*‘If you don’t love the Marine Corps, how can you sell the Marine Corps?’*

— Staff Sgt. John McIntire, Recruiter of the Year, RS Portland

here whether you were going to join the Marine Corps or not.”

Of course, McIntire said, once an applicant gets through pre-screening, he uses the benefit tags, the Marine Corps Opportunities Book, and the Professional Selling Skills he learned at Recruiter School and on the job, but that simple statement sets a certain tone.

“The kid knows I’m right,” said McIntire. “He knows there’s no in-between. He’s either going to make a commitment that will change his whole life or go back to the status quo.”

As a fairly new SNCOIC with two green Marine recruiters under his charge, McIntire adopts a similar

philosophy. “Pain or pleasure,” said McIntire, summing it up simply. “When we do the job we’re supposed to do, life is good. If we fail, things get a little rougher. We have to do whatever it takes to make sure that (failure) doesn’t happen.”

Sometimes “whatever it takes” is simple teamwork and a love for the Corps. “I ask my recruiters all the time whether or not they love the Marine Corps,” he said. “If you don’t love the Marine Corps, how can you sell the Marine Corps?”

To achieve the balance between hard work and quality of life, McIntire said consistency is key, but when business seems scarce, recruiters must know how to find something more within themselves. “You’d better bring a personality and conviction to this job,” said McIntire. “You have to know how to spark it up when the heat is on.” That means everyone including himself. “We’re the furthest station from the guard shack. Being a rural substation, we have to be as efficient as possible. We don’t have time to waste.”

Moments later, rushing off to a high school awards presentation in his Dress Blue uniform, McIntire validated those words and stepped out of his recruiting office into the cold December air, leaving his recruiters busily making phone calls with a final thought: “There are a lot of individuals on recruiting duty, but in RSS Bend, we’re a team. This is not a one-man show.”

## DEPOT SPOTLIGHT

# With vet’s methods, bn.’s rifle scores up

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS  
*Chevron staff*

As of late, the Headquarters and Service Battalion’s rifle scores have vastly improved. Marksmanship instructors have

created a stress-free, relaxed environment so shooters can focus more on shooting without being worried about micromanagement.

One of these instructors is Sgt. Mark Sarmiento, a relaxed Operation Iraqi

Freedom veteran who has a smooth trigger squeeze and a keen eye for a target’s center mass.

The Los Angeles native is an infantryman by trade who arrived here a little more than a year ago after displaying some heroics in Iraq. Sarmiento was assaulting through An Nasiriyah, Iraq, with 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, Task Force Tarawa, when his convoy changed course off the main road.

“We called that road ‘Ambush Alley,’” said Sarmiento. “In OIF 1, An Nasiriyah was the bloodiest battle. Anyway, we turned off Ambush Alley and started driving through the streets of the city. The (amphibious assault vehicle) my squad was in and another vehicle got stuck in the mud. We were sitting ducks. I could here rounds bouncing off the metal.”

The squad’s lieutenant advised the men to stay in the vehicle for their own safety, but Sarmiento had other ideas.

“I was thinking, ‘Someone is going to walk right up to us and put a grenade on the roof,’” recalled Sarmiento. “I knew we would die if we just sat there, so I opened the top hatch and started shooting.”

Sarmiento was armed with an M-203 grenade launcher. He said he spotted a sniper and launched some ammunition toward the enemy. Shortly afterward, the enemy fire stopped and the Marines were able to leave the town. The lieutenant recommended the sergeant for the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a combat distinguishing “V,” which Sarmiento earned. The certificate for the medal says, “... for eliminating enemy threat.”

After 45 days of heat, long vehicle rides and skirmishes with the enemy, Sarmiento’s unit returned home. Sarmiento volunteered to come to the depot as a combat readiness instructor. Now his duty is training Marines to shoot the M-16 A2 service rifle.

“He really likes teaching marksmanship,” said Sgt. Matthew Maruster, also a combat readiness instructor. “He takes the time to teach the individual Marine thoroughly. Also, he’s a great shooter, so that helps him train the Marines. He



Sgt. Mark Sarmiento, combat readiness instructor, Headquarters and Service battalion, served in Iraq before he came to the depot to train Marines to shoot. Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron

doesn’t just talk about the techniques – he can apply them.”

Sarmiento is modest about his shooting capabilities, even though he shot a 63 on the rifle range. A 65 is a perfect score, which he said he would have shot had he remembered to reset his sights from the day before.

“I missed my first shot because my rifle was set to fire at 500 yards,” said 24-year old Sarmiento, who was at the 200-yard line when he missed.

“I’ve never seen a higher score on the range,” said Maruster. “That talent helps him as an instructor. I can remember several times when we have been able to take shooters who where in danger of failing and trained them to be experts. We make a great team.”

The third corner of the marksmanship triangle is Sgt. Raymond Acosta, who is attending the Depot Competition in Arms Program – a marksmanship competition – at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Sarmiento and Maruster both agreed that the relaxed environment they create for the rifle range cultivates higher scores than in the past.

“Its all about relaxation,” said Sarmiento, a five-year veteran.

“We don’t micromanage the shooters,” said Maruster. “We give them the responsibility. And if we see something wrong, we correct it, but not in a derogatory way. We correct constructively to fix the problem, not add to the stress.”

The battalion leaders have noticed the rising training trend also.

“Since they took over the rifle range, stats have gone up considerably,” said H&S Bn. operations chief, Gunnery Sgt. Charles S. Sanderson. “I’ve also been able to volunteer for duty in the Republic of Georgia and in Iraq. I can do these training revolutions because I have competent sergeants serving with me. Their hard work and efforts allow me to do the things I enjoy.”

With battalion stats on the rise and the fight in Iraq still burning strong, Sarmiento said he wants to go back to an infantry unit when his time on the depot is over.



# NOT THIS TIME



Sgt. Jeff Vandentop spikes Dental in the third and final game. Dental had trouble defending Big Blue's spikes the entire match.



Big Blue Gunnery Sgt. Chris T. Balcazar faces his teammates and coaches them into better playing positions before the next play. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

## 3rd Bn. recruits new talent to avoid another forfeit; knocks Dental



BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER  
Chevron Staff

In the final game of the regular tournament, Big Blue showed its true colors and shined against Dental in the Commanding General's Cup volleyball tournament at the field house Tuesday.

Coming back from a forfeit in their last match against Service Company, 3rd Bn. had a new array of players. The forfeit was forced upon them for not having enough bodies to play. 3rd Bn. did not want to have the same incident happen twice.

Many of 3rd Bn.'s players are from Company I, and because that company is in between training cycles, players have been scant. Team manager Gunnery Sgt. Christopher T. Balcazar said

he is doing his best to make sure players are available.

With new players, came new struggles. During the first game, 3rd Bn. had trouble finding its groove and was making simple mistakes, many as a result of simply not knowing the rules. 3rd Bn. lost its first game to Dental 25-22.

It wasn't until the second match that communication and new talent came into play. Volley-veteran Sgt. Jeff Vandentop embarrassed Dental with constant attacks on the net and accurate spikes.

"Our talent would probably be bigger if we recruited more," said Balcazar about adding new players.

The next two games went by in a blur. 3rd Bn. defeated its opponent by no less than 10 points in the final two games.

Third Bn. forfeited last week's match-up against Service Co. after having only three players show up, but this week it had seven, the majority being new talent recruited last minute.

Balcazar said he was surprised to see the talent his team had Tuesday.

"We let some of the new players come off the bench, and they could really play," he said.

With playoffs starting Tuesday, eliminations have already begun. After a painful tournament, Depot Adjutant was eliminated for placing last in the standings. Those players were defeated by a Coast Guard team.

Finals will start for all other teams Tuesday, and the winner of the year's first CG's Cup event will be determined at the end of the tournament.